



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management



Elko Field Office  
Elko, Nevada

March 2002

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# D R A F T Environmental Impact Statement



# Leeville Project

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air and scenic, scientific and cultural values.



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

FEB 3 2002

In Reply Refer To:  
1793.7/3809  
N16-97-004P

Dear Reader:

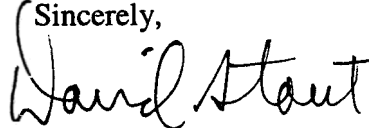

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Newmont Mining Corporation's Leeville Project. The DEIS analyzes the effect of developing and operating an underground mine and ancillary facilities including dewatering operations for eighteen years. The Leeville Project consists of the West Leeville, Four Corners, and Turf ore bodies which will be accessed by five shafts, a waste rock disposal facility, and other ancillary facilities, including dewatering facilities. The Leeville Mine is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada.

A separate report entitled *Cumulative Impact Analysis of Dewatering and Water Management Operations for the Betze Project, South Operations Area Project Amendment, and Leeville Project* analyzes the cumulative effects of dewatering from the three major dewatering projects on the Carlin Trend. This report is summarized in the DEIS and is available from the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, or on the internet at [www.nv.blm.gov/elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko).

This DEIS addresses those concerns identified by the BLM or raised during public scoping from August 1 through September 2, 1997. Following the 60 day public review and comment period, a Final EIS will be prepared. It will include monitoring and mitigation measures that address predicted direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from Newmont's proposed mining and dewatering operations.

Public comments on the DEIS will be accepted during a 60-day comment period ending April 29, 2002. A public meeting to accept verbal and written comments is scheduled for April 3, 2002 at 6:00 P.M. at the BLM Elko Field Office. Comments on the DEIS should be submitted to: Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, Attention: Deb McFarlane, Leeville Project EIS Coordinator, 3900 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801.

The Final EIS may be published in an abbreviated format so please retain this draft document for future reference. Your interest in the management of public lands is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Deb McFarlane, Leeville EIS Project Manager at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely,  
  
 Helen Hankins,  
Field Manager

**DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
NEWMONT MINING COMPANY  
LEEVILLE PROJECT**

**LEAD AGENCY:**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Elko Field Office  
Elko, Nevada

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Elko and Eureka Counties, Nevada

**COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT EIS  
SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Deb McFarlane  
Leeville EIS Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Elko Field Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, NV 89801

**DATE DRAFT EIS FILED WITH USEPA:** March 1, 2002

**DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST  
BE POSTMARKED TO BLM:** April 29, 2002

**ABSTRACT**

This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) analyzes potential impacts associated with Newmont Mining Company's (Newmont) proposal to develop the Leeville Project; a proposed underground gold mine located approximately 20 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada in the Carlin Trend. Newmont submitted a plan of operations (Proposed Action) for development of the Leeville Project in April 1997. The Proposed Action provides for construction of five shafts to depths of approximately 2,500 feet from the surface to access three main ore bodies. The Proposed Action also includes construction of ancillary mine facilities to support underground operations including shaft hoists, a waste rock disposal facility, a refractory ore stockpile facility, facilities to support backfill of mined-out stopes, installation and operation of mine dewatering wells, a water treatment plant, a pipeline/canal system to discharge excess mine water to existing infiltration and irrigation systems in the Boulder Valley, and reclamation of surface disturbances including capping of shafts. Approximately 486 acres of land would be disturbed by mine facilities including 33 acres of private land and 453 acres of public land. The Leeville Project would have an 18-year mine life and would produce approximately 18 million tons of ore and waste rock. In addition to the Proposed Action and the no action alternative, the DEIS analyzes three alternatives, including A) eliminate canal portion of water discharge pipelines, B) backfill shafts, and C) relocation of the waste rock disposal facility and refractory ore stockpile. The Agency Preferred Alternative incorporates portions of the proposed action and alternatives A, B, and C.

**Responsible Official for DEIS:**

  
for **Helen Hankins**  
**Manager, Elko Field Office**

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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
LEEVILLE PROJECT**

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